

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 have been cancelled, rendering all rejections to the previous claims moot. New claims 31-47 are presented. Applicants maintain that claims 31-47 are allowable over the cited references for the following reasons.

Independent claims 31, 38 and 44 recite method, apparatus, and system, respectively, to maintain a monotonic count of received signals by 1) changing successive bits from a first state to a second state until a predetermined number of bits have been changed, 2) resetting the bits back to the first state, and repeating the process but starting from a next bit position. Support for these limitations may be found in the drawings in Figs. 4, 5a-5e, and 7, and in the supporting text for these figures. Neither of the cited references, either individually or in combination, discloses or suggests these limitations. Claims 32-37, 39-43, and 45-47 depend from claims 31, 38 and 44, respectively, and therefore contain the same limitations not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

CONCLUSION

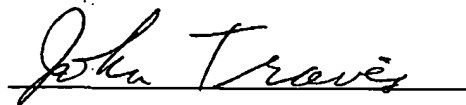
For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. If any fee insufficiency or overpayment is found, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOLOKOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date: _____

4-8-03



John Travis
Reg. No. 43,203

12400 Wilshire Blvd
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(512) 434-2400